



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

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### **Tenor Aleksandr Agamirzov and Pianist Irina Bessonova to Perform at Central Library**

*Program Will Feature Classical and Popular Songs, Opera Arias, and Piano Music by Chopin*

**SAN DIEGO** – The fourth concert of the 2010 Winter/Spring Concert Series of the City of San Diego Public Library will take place on Sunday, March 28 with tenor Aleksandr Agamirzov and pianist Irina Bessonova. The FREE program will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St., in downtown San Diego.

The concert will feature classical and popular music for voice and piano, as well as piano music by Frédéric Chopin. The program is as follows:

Vocal music with piano

F. Schubert, Ave Maria

R. Wright, G. Forrest, and A. Borodin, And This is My Beloved (from Kismet)

N. Brodzky, Beloved

Carl Bohm, Still Wie die Nacht (Calm as the Night)

E. Fusco and R. Falvo, Dicitencello vuie

E. Cannio, 'O surdato 'mmamurato

R. Leoncavallo, Mattinata

P. Turco and L. Denza, Funiculi funicula

A. Arensky, A Passion

P. Tchaikovsky, Lensky's Aria (from Eugen Onegin)

A. Lara, Granada

E. di Capua, O sole mio

Piano music by F. Chopin

Étude No. 13 in A-flat major

Big Brilliant Waltz

Aleksandr Agamirzov has appeared with opera companies throughout Europe, including Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Spain, Netherlands and Russia. He began his operatic career as a leading tenor

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with Kaunas Musical Theater and Vilnius Opera House in Lithuania. He has received praise for major operatic roles, including Alfredo in Verdi's *La traviata*, Canio in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and Erik in Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer*. He has won several vocal competitions in Lithuania and Russia, and has been a music educator at Kaunas Music Academy. He has sung with the State Symphony Orchestra of Lithuania, Spain Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Orff's *Trionfo di Afrodite*, Verdi's *Requiem*, and the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Since 1996 Mr. Agamirzov has continued his career as a classical singer and a teacher in the United States. He has performed with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, San Diego Spreckels Organ Society, and other ensembles.

Irina Bessonova has been a participant in many competitions and festivals, and has won the Lysenko Competition. She had many performances in the Ukraine as a soloist and as an accompanist with several important Ukrainian singers, such as Victor Sportko, Lina Prochorova, and Tatiana Russova. She was born in Russia, and started studying music at age four. After receiving her Ph.D. in Music with a major in Piano from Kiev Conservatory, Ms. Bessonova worked at Glier College of Music until she moved to the United States in 2002. Here she continued her career as a piano soloist, accompanist, and a teacher. She has performed in San Diego and Los Angeles with such great singers as Nikolai Gutorovich, Lydia Zacharenko, Aleksandr Agamirzov, and Susana Poketsky. She currently works as a teacher and accompanist at the California Institute of Music. Her six-year-old student Ami Liu was a winner of the International Piano Competition in San Jose in 2006, and the United States Open Piano Competition in Oakland in 2007.

The concert is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the Five Star Parking lot adjacent to the Library on Broadway and 8th. In addition, parking meters are not enforced on Sundays, and other pay parking lots are available in the vicinity of the library.

For further information, please call the Library's Art, Music and Recreation Section at 236-5810, or visit the Library web site at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

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